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Approved For Releaser 1299/129/08 ENGLA 18 DIRE 2-00457 REPOSTOR

INFORMATISEGREEPORT 25X1A2g

COUNTRY Ethiopia/Czechoslovakia DATE DISTR. 17 Dec 1948

SUBJECT

Czechoslovak Trade Mission in Ethiopia

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A6a

PLACE **ACQUIRED** NO. OF ENCLS.

DATE OF DIFO

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X6

A Czechoslovak trade mission arrived in Addis Ababa from Cairo on 4 November 1948. The members of the mission were as follows:

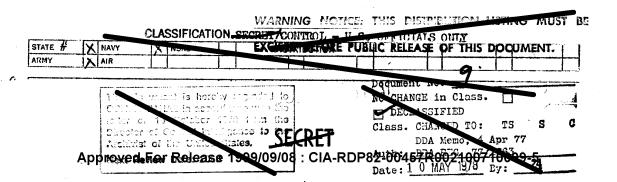
> Jaroslav Iachin, leader of the mission, who is an engineer employed in the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Trade. He is reported to be a Communist. Iachin holds passport No. 902/48, issued on 13 September 1948. His address is 2nd (sic) 20 Trida Veznu, Prague.

Augustine Krop, representative of the Kotva group, an import-export combine controlled by Bat'a. He represents all light industries, except metals, timber, and ceramics. He holds passport No. 2665/031/18, issued on 23 September 1948. His address is Manasova 43, Prague.

Bedrich Schneider, representative of the metal industry and optical mamufacturers. He holds passport No. 2967/9023/48, issued on 23 September 1948. His address is No. 1 Ribnall, Prague.

Jan Lnenicka, representative of the timber, glass, match, and crockery industries. He holds passport No. 2972/12574/47, issued on 28 June 1947. His address is Jablonec, Czechoslovakia.

2. Source believes that David Halle is responsible for the arrival of the Czechoslovak Trade Mission, and source has gained the impression in conversations with Halle that the latter wishes to build up the light industries of Ethiopia through the use of Central Buropean technicians. According to source, there have been unconfirmed rumors that Czechoslovakia will send a diplomatic representative to Ethiopia and that Spuytihnev Kofranek will be named resident trade representative. Kofranek has recently imported some Czech goods into Ethiopia, and has been increasingly friendly with the Soviet Legaton in Addis Ababa. His relations with Halle, however, are very unfriendly, source states.



Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002100710009-5

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- 3. In conversation with informant, one of the numbers of the Czech mission stated that the Czechs did not expect to arrange for the purchase of any goods in Ethiopia. Comment. The members of the mission may be correct in their statement that Czechoslovakia is not seeking any Ethiopia products as imports. The only Ethiopian products which Czechoslovakia 25X1A6a
- 4. The trade mission represents all the Czech industries, with the exception of armaments which are being handled by Baltazar Chermakian. The members of the mission expected Chermakian to arrive in Ethiopia about the middle of November. Comment. The Soviet Chargé d'Affaires stated on I November that the arms purchased by Ethiopia from Czechoslovakia were in the process of being shipped. The President of the State Bank of Ethiopia stated that the total amount of this arms purchase was 25X1A6a \$US 15,000,000, but the accuracy of this figure is doubtful.)
- 5. According to informant, one of the members of the Czech trade mission wished to go to Nairobi, Kenya Colony, and to South Africa; another member wanted to accompany him, but was not sure that the British would grant him a visa.

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